

The Honorable Norman Mineta has led a distinguished career in public service and is a fitting recipient of the Tomodachi Award. As a former Mayor of San Jose, California, he is recognized as the first Asian American mayor of a major U.S. city. Mr. Mineta was then elected to the United States House of Representatives, where he served from 1975 to 1995. During his time as a Congressman, he co-founded the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and was the driving force behind the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which formally apologized to the Japanese American community for the injustices committed during World War II.

In 2000, President Clinton appointed Mr. Mineta as the Secretary of Commerce, where he served until he was nominated by President George W. Bush to serve as the United States Secretary of Transportation. Not only is Mr. Mineta the first Asian American to hold a post in the presidential cabinet, but he is also one of only a few individuals to hold cabinet positions in both Republican and Democratic administrations.

As Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Mineta played a pivotal role during the chaos of the attacks on September 11, 2001. Without precedent, he made the decision to ground all civilian aircraft to ensure the safety of American lives. Following the attacks, Mr. Mineta was a major proponent of the creation of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and he fought against racial profiling and extra screening of Middle Eastern and Muslim passengers.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize The Honorable Norman Mineta for his relentless dedication to public service and to strengthening Japanese American culture. He continues to play an active role in engaging the relationship between Japan and the United States and serves as an inspiration for all working in public service.

CELEBRATING MRS. KAREN HOOVER'S RETIREMENT FROM THE DISTRICT 18 VFW LADIES AUXILIARY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mrs. Karen Hoover on the occasion of her retirement from the District 18 VFW Ladies Auxiliary after 31 years of selfless service. Karen's countless contributions in my district and state reflect her dignity, honor, and dedication to improving her community and the lives of all Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Karen joined the VFW Ladies Auxiliary in 1985, under the eligibility of her father, who served in the Army during WWII, and subsequently became a life member in 1999. She was elected the Auxiliary President in 1988 and served a total of eight terms. Since 2000, Karen has served as a Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President, Secretary, and in her current role as Treasurer. Auxiliary chairmanship positions she has occupied include Americanism, Membership, Cancer, and Safety. Karen has also acted as the District 18 Chief of Staff, Color Bearer, Extensions Chairman, and Treasurer for the Voice of Democracy program.

Beyond her formal positions in the VFW, Karen has always understood the value of community engagement. She is a member of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, the American Legion, Women of the Moose, Relay for Life Team, United Way Fundraising, and Valley Lanes Bowling League. Karen is a lifetime member of the National Home for Veterans Children and was a life member of the Scotland School for Veterans' Children until its closure in 2009. Additionally, Karen is a dedicated supporter of the Halifax Cat Rescue Association. Whether volunteering at the food stand during the Shippensburg Community Fair or spending valuable time with her family, Karen embodies the values and principles that are essential to the functioning of a productive community. Her retirement will be accompanied by quality time with her daughter Nicole, who is also an active member of the Auxiliary, her two stepsons, and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Mrs. Karen Hoover for her tireless dedication and excellence with the Millersburg VFW Ladies Auxiliary. Karen's career achievements have produced profound effects in our community and her example of selfless leadership will continue to inspire the next generation of Veterans' advocates. It is with gratitude and appreciation that I recognize Mrs. Hoover on the occasion of her retirement and wish her all the best in her next endeavor.

HONORING MR. PAUL F. WOXLAND

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Paul F. Woxland, and to recognize the nearly twenty-five years of service that he has given to our region as well as to the federal government in his work with the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. Woxland began his service with the Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1991. Paul would eventually assume the role of Director of the Minneapolis Multifamily Asset Management Division and Satellite Office Coordinator. In this role, Mr. Woxland was tasked with the ultimate responsibility for physical, managerial, and financial condition of every HUD property within the region.

Mr. Woxland has also been instrumental in the development and improvement of housing in Minnesota and in our neighboring state of Wisconsin. In this capacity, he has overseen thousands of housing developments, working diligently to provide all families with access to one of our most basic yet most needed resources, a safe space to call home. To that end, Mr. Woxland has had a direct hand in over one thousand affordable housing projects in Minnesota, and over eight hundred projects in Wisconsin. This staggering number of developments has had an immeasurable impact upon the health of the region, and in partnership has provided permanent housing to over fifteen thousand households.

Mr. Woxland's work with the Interagency Stabilization Group has shown the true level of his commitment to providing housing for very low income residents. Mr. Woxland, through this collaborative organization, has succeeded

in not only preserving but stabilizing affordable housing in Minneapolis for thousands of low-income residents. Some notable developments this partnership has preserved are Ebenezer Tower, Cecil Newman Plaza, and Riverside Plaza, a local landmark that is honored in the National Register of Historic Places.

To his colleagues and staff, he is regarded as the leader of one of the most effective and efficient HUD offices in the nation. Mr. Woxland leaves a legacy at HUD of tireless commitment and of service to our most underprivileged. For that he deserves our gratitude. He also leaves a legacy of touching countless lives and fostering inclusive communities throughout the region.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. JOSEPH SHER

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Joseph Sher, who passed away on March 24, 2016 at the age of 100.

Mr. Sher was born into a family of six children on July 27, 1917 in Krzepice, Poland. During World War II, Mr. Sher was sent to a series of Nazi concentration camps, where he and other Jewish men were put to work building roads. Many members of the crew perished from disease or were shot dead by the guards. Mr. Sher and his two brothers survived the atrocities of Nazi Germany; however they lost their parents and three sisters in the Treblinka death camp. Mr. Sher married Rachel Israelowicz in 1941. Like Mr. Sher, Ms. Israelowicz survived a series of Nazi concentration camps. The two reconnected after the war when her husband found her working in a soup kitchen.

In 1949 Mr. Sher, a tailor by trade, was one of the first survivors of the Holocaust to reach New Orleans. He was part of the resettlement program offered by the United States for residents of Displaced Persons camps. He arrived with his wife and young son by ship at the Port of Embarkation, which happened to be on Poland Avenue in the 9th Ward.

After coming to New Orleans, Mr. Sher worked as a tailor. He worked eleven hours a day, six days a week at Harry Hyman Tailors. His clients included Elvis Presley, Fats Domino, Al Hirt, Chubby Checker and Chris Owens.

Mr. Sher spoke frequently about the Holocaust and his harrowing experiences as a slave laborer. Even though reliving the horror was excruciating, Mr. Sher said he kept doing it to fulfill this admonition from his mother: "You should tell all the world what happened to us so that no one will ever forget."

Mr. Sher's wife preceded him in death. His survivors include two sons, Martin Sher of Plano, Texas and Leopold Sher of New Orleans; and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Joseph Sher, a beloved husband, father, and son.